

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of Internet Protocol (IP) provisioning for use in a cable network having a network provisioning unit (NPU) in communication with a plurality of embedded settop boxes (eSTBs), the method comprising:

receiving eSTB IP provisioning requests from eSTBs provided by at least two different vendors, the eSTB IP provisioning requests outputted according to a first protocol; and

transmitting eSTB IP provisioning data from the NPU to the eSTBs requesting the eSTB IP provisioning, wherein the eSTB IP provisioning data is outputted according to the first protocol such that provisioning of the eSTBs is standardized for each vendor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting the eSTB IP provisioning data according to the vendor of the requesting eSTB.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising determining the vendor of the requesting eSTB using the NPU based on an eSTB vendor identifier included in the eSTB IP provisioning request.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the NPU includes a database comprising IP provisioning data associated by vendor identifiers with a plurality of eSTB vendors, and wherein determining the vendor of the requesting eSTB includes searching the database for a vendor identifier that matches with the eSTB vendor identifier.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the eSTB vendor identifier includes at least one of a serial number, a hardware version, a software version, an Organization Unique Identifier (OUI), a model number, or a vendor name.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each eSTB is associated with Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) and wherein each CPE includes an embedded cable modem (eCM), and the method further comprises bridging IP signals through the eCM to the eSTB.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first protocol is defined according to a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

8-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A system for Internet Protocol (IP) provisioning over a cable network, the system comprising:

a plurality of embedded settop boxes (eSTBs) in communication with the cable network, at least two of the eSTB provided by at least two different vendors, each eSTB configured to transmit IP provisioning requests to the network according to a first protocol; and

a network provisioning unit (NPU) in communication with the network, the NPU configured to receive the eSTB IP provisioning requests and the transmit eSTB IP provisioning data in response thereto, wherein the eSTB IP provisioning data is transmitted according to the first protocol such that provisioning of the eSTBs is standard for each vendor in so far as each eSTB utilizes the first protocol for provisioning.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the NPU selects the provisioning data according to the vendor of the requesting eSTB.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the NPU determines the vendor of the requesting eSTB based on an eSTB vendor identifier included in the eSTB IP provisioning request.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the NPU includes a database comprising IP provisioning data associated by vendor identifiers with a plurality of eSTB vendors, and wherein the NPU determines the vendor of the requesting eSTB by searching the database for a vendor identifier that matches with the eSTB vendor identifier.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the first protocol is defined according to a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

21. (New) A method of provisioning settop boxes (STBs) to execute a set of operations associated with supporting media services provided by a media service provider when the STBs have different instructional requirements depending on whether the STBs are provided by a first or second vendor, the method comprising:

receiving provisioning requests from the STBs;

identifying at least one of the STBs requesting provisioning to be associated with the first vendor and at least one of the STBs requesting provisioning to be associated with the second vendor; and

providing provisioning instructions to the requesting STBs according to the different instructional requirements of the first and second vendors identified to be associated with the requesting STBs, the provisioning instructions being sufficient to program the requesting STBs to execute the set of operations associated with supporting the media services provided by the media service provider.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the provisioning requests are received and the provisioning instructions are sent according to the same protocol.

23. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the media provider provides the media services with assistance from a first and second headend unit, and wherein the method further comprises adjusting the provisioning instructions depending on whether the requesting STBs are associated with the first or second headend unit.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the media provider provides the media services with assistance from a first and second headend unit that are respectively associated with third and fourth vendors and the STBs have different instructional requirements depending on whether the STBs are receiving signals from the headend of the third or fourth

vendor, wherein the method further comprises providing the provisioning instructions to the requesting STBs according to the different instructional requirements of the first and second vendors as well as the third and fourth vendors.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the first and second vendors are different from the third and fourth vendors.

26. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the third vendor is different from the fourth vendor.

27. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein at least one of the first or second vendors is the same as one of the third or fourth vendors.

28. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the STBs are configured to process television signals for output to a display and the method further comprises transmitting the provisioning instructions to the STBs over a cable television network.